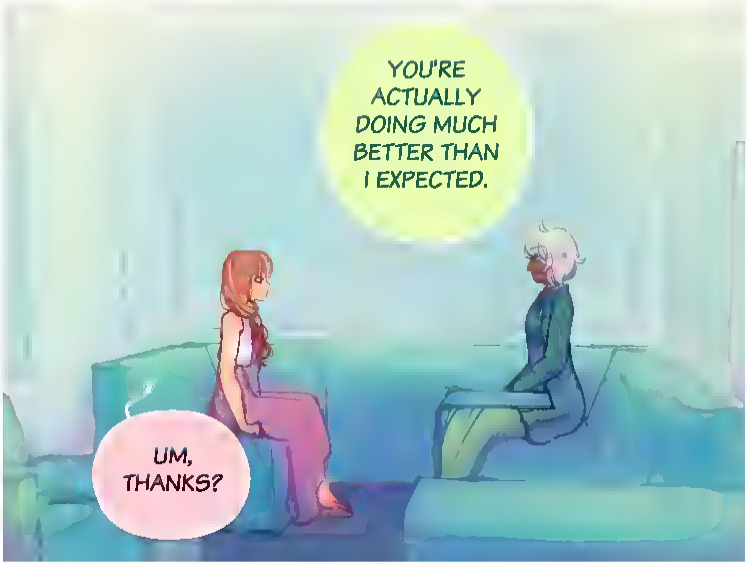
ALWAYS HUMAN

51 - At risk

DR KARIM ISN'T EXACTLY MY FAVOURITE PERSON.

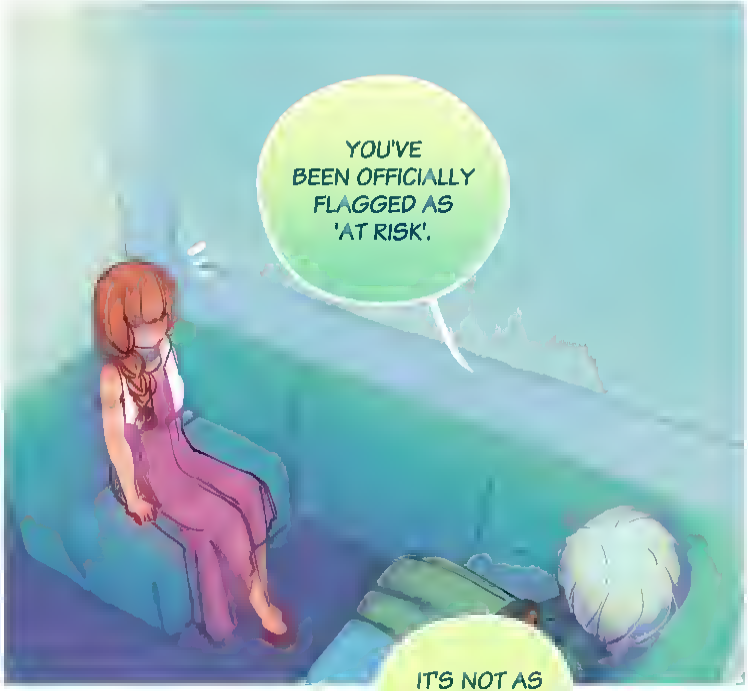
BUT SHE'S FRANK AND DIRECT.

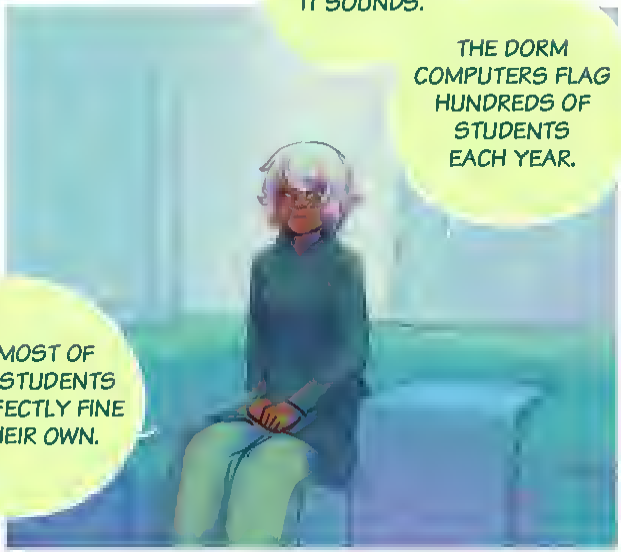


I DO APPRECIATE THAT.

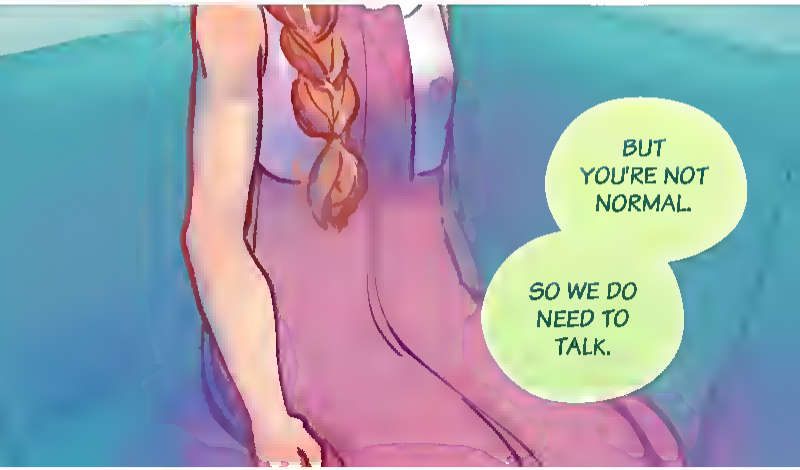
WHEN YOU SAID WE NEEDED TO TALK ABOUT MY DEGREE I EXPECTED BAD NEWS.
. . . THIS SOUNDS LIKE GOOD NEWS?
I THOUGHT WE'D START OFF WITH THE GOOD NEWS
AND THEN MOVE ON TO THE STUFF YOU WON'T LIKE
my phd students usually prefer that

WONDERFUL.


YOU'VE BEEN OFFICIALLY FLAGGED AS 'AT RISK'.
IT'S NOT AS


SERIOUS AS IT SOUNDS.
THE DORM COMPUTERS FLAG HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS EACH YEAR.
AND MOST OF THOSE STUDENTS DO PERFECTLY FINE ON THEIR OWN.

IF YOU WERE A NORMAL STUDENT WE WOUDLN'T EVEN BE TALKING ABOUT THIS.



SIGH

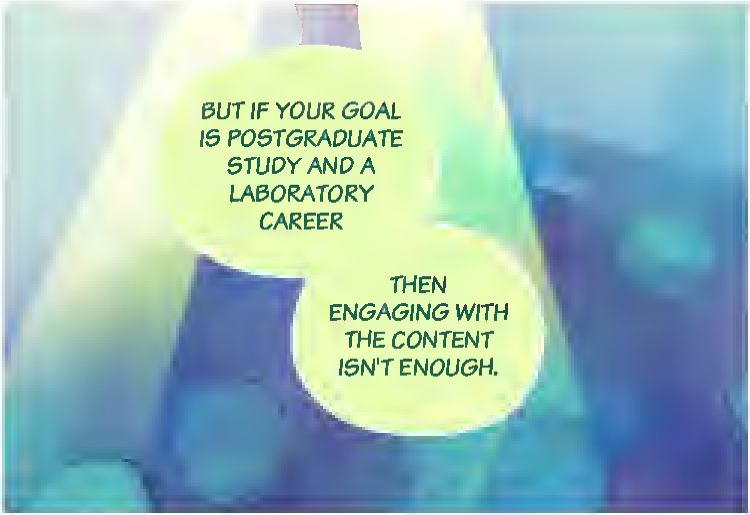
WHY AM I 'AT RISK'?
WELL, LET'S SEE

YOU BARELY EAT WHEN YOU'VE ON A DEADLINE
YOUR SLEEP PATTERNS ARE ERRATIC
STAB
STAB
STAB
STAB
AND YOU DRINK MORE COFFEE THAN WATER
YOU'VE PULLED DOZENS OF ALL NIGHTERS
I DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT YOU'RE BUCKLING UNDER THE STRESS OF UNIVERSITY
BUT YOU'RE NOT HANDLING IT WELL EITHER

HERE'S WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT KARIM:

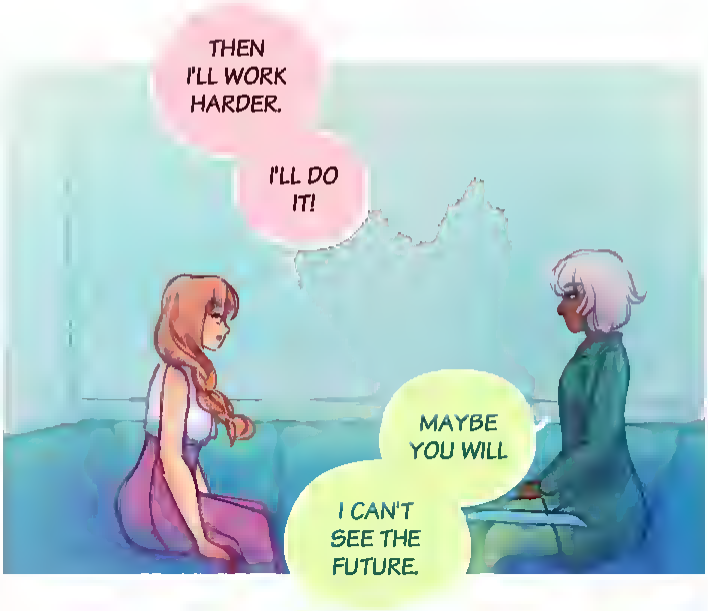
THE TRUTHS SHE SAYS ARE OFTEN THINGS I ALREADY KNOW.

DOES SHE REALLY THINK I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THIS ALREADY?



I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS SO OFTEN
I'VE SHARPENED THE WORDS UNTIL THEY CUT.

AND NOW SHE'S REOPENING ALL THOSE TINY LITTLE WOUNDS.



BUT YOU ACT LIKE YOUR ONLY OPTIONS ARE GIVING UP OR PUSHING THROUGH.
YOU HAVE OTHER CHOICES.
I THINK YOU SHOULD CONSIDER A DIFFERENT MAJOR.

NO WAY. NO WAY.

CHANGING MAJORS WOULD BE GIVING UP.

IT WOULD BE RUNNING AWAY
WHILE PRETENDING THAT I'M NOT.

YOU COULD EVEN CHANGE DEGREES.

I CAN'T DO THAT.
I CAN'T.

Thank you for reading!

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